

## CLAIMS:

1. A distributed stereo audio system, including: two or more speakers for the broadcast of stereo audio signals, a source of stereo audio signals, a stereo amplifier to amplify stereo audio signals and drive the speakers, and a mains operated electrical power supply to provide power to the amplifier; where the amplifier is located in the same room as the speakers, and remote from the signal source and power supply; and where the amplifier is connected to the signal source and power supply by means of a category 5 four pair twisted cable (or similar) which provides, in respective conductors of the twisted pairs, right channel audio signals from the signal source to the amplifier, left channel audio from the signal source to the amplifier and DC power from the power supply to the amplifier.
2. A distributed stereo audio system according to claim 1, wherein amplifier and speaker sets in several rooms receive signals from a single source of audio signals.
3. A distributed stereo audio system according to claim 1, wherein the source provides a selection of components, such as radio or CD, and different audio signals are provided to different rooms.
4. A distributed stereo audio system according to claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein the volume is set differently in each room.
5. A distributed stereo audio system according to ~~any preceding claims~~, wherein the amplifier is based on an integrated circuit amplifier.
6. A distributed stereo audio system according to claim 5, wherein the amplifier is constructed to fit into a standard electrical light switch housing.
7. A distributed stereo audio system according to claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein the amplifier output level is controlled by the output level of the source components.
8. A distributed stereo audio system according to claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein a manual volume control is included with the amplifier.
9. A distributed stereo audio system according to claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein a hand-held remote control is provided to transmit infrared signals to a receiver mounted with the amplifier.
10. A distributed stereo audio system according to claim 9, wherein the amplifier is mounted with a speaker.

13. A distributed stereo audio system according to claim 9, 11 or 12, *wherein* <sup>where</sup> infrared signals received by the amplifier are transmitted to the source components through a fourth twisted pair in the category 5 cable.

15. A distributed stereo audio system according to claim 13, <sup>where</sup> the signals are demodulated and provided as data signals to the audio components.

17. A distributed stereo audio system according to claim 1, <sup>where</sup> the  
20 amplifier accepts speaker signals from another amplifier. <sup>where</sup>

19. A distributed stereo audio system according to claim 1, where the amplifier includes an adjustable input level trim device.

19. A distributed stereo audio system according to claim 1, where the amplifier includes an adjustable input level trim device.